

Report No. 7

Parole Board
Massachusetts

A Comparative Analysis of Some Characteristics of
County Parolees Under the Jurisdiction of the Mass.
Parole Board Between 1972 and 1973

January, 1974

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Introduction

This study examined some characteristics of all county parolees who were on parole as of July 1, 1973. On that date, the total county caseload (active and warrant) numbered 729.

The study has information on the following variables: age, race, offense and sentence, length of parole, geographic distribution (by institution sentenced to and by area released to), type of release, and length of time between release and the issuance of a revocation warrant.¹

This study was undertaken as a comparison to a similar report done in 1972.² Significant changes or trends will be noted.

Major Findings

1. 91% of all county parolees spend one year or less on parole. The number on parole for 3 months or less increased significantly ($p=.05$) from 68 in 1972 to 103 in 1973, an increase from 10% to 14% in the total county caseload.
 2. The number of county parolees with commitment sentences of six months or less increased by 12% to 18.7%.
 3. Almost one-third (30.5%) of the parolees were living in Boston and the immediate suburbs. This is a decrease of about 13% from 1972.
 4. The number of parolees released from institutions in urban areas (Billerica, Deer Island, Worcester, New Bedford) decreased by 5% to 62.1%.
 5. Property crimes accounted for 54% of the commitment offenses, narcotics for 17%. This is an increase of 13% in property offenses and a decrease of 3% in narcotics offenses since 1972.
 6. 24.2% of the parolees had outstanding violation warrants. Of these over one-third had been issued within the first month of parole, and over half within the first two months.
 7. County parolees accounted for roughly 16.5% of the total parole caseload.
 8. A comparative analysis of the age distribution of the county parolees shows some change between 1972 and 1973 when 59.0% of the parolees were under 25 years of age in 1973 as compared with 56.1% for 1972.
 9. Approximately 23% of the county parolees were black in June 1972 and this proportion had dropped to 18.7% in June 1973.
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1. Detailed results are available from the research department.
 2. Some characteristics of the county parolees under the jurisdiction of the Parole Board as of June 30, 1972.

Table 1
Length of Parole
County Parolees July 1, 1973

Length of parole	Number	Per cent	Per cent - 1972
0 - 6 months	398	54.7	51.6
7 -12 months	265	36.3	41.2
13-24 months	28	3.8	7.2
over 24 months	38	5.2	0.0
Total	729	100.0	100.0

Table 2
Length of Commitment Sentence
County Parolees July 1, 1973

Length of sentence	Number	Per cent	Per cent - 1972
0 - 6 months	137	18.7	6.6
7 -12 months	271	37.4	43.6
13-24 months	228	31.2	36.9
over 24 months	97	12.7	12.9
Total	729	100.0	100.0

Table 3
Geographic Location
County Parolees July 1, 1973

Area	Number	Per cent	Per cent - 1972
Boston and vicinity	223	30.5	43.5
Southeastern Mass.	137	18.7	19.6
Northeastern Mass.	140	19.2	12.0
Western and Central Mass.	182	24.9	19.6
Special Services	15	2.0	4.2
Out of State	32	4.3	1.5
Total	729	100.0	100.0

Table 4
Commitment Institution
County Parolees July 1, 1973

Institution	Number	Per cent	Per cent - 1972
Deer Island	186	25.5	34.6
Billerica	124	17.0	17.6
Worcester	85	11.6	6.9
New Bedford	59	8.0	8.1
sub-total	454	62.1	67.2
Northampton	57	7.8	4.8
Plymouth	43	5.8	4.2
Barnstable	32	4.3	5.1
Other	143	30.0	18.7
Total	729	100.0	100.0